



THE INTERIM

A Monthly Newsletter of the Montana Legislative Branch

Volume XVI, No. 16

Helena, Montana

September 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| COMPUTER SYSTEM PLANNING COUNCIL | 1 |
| LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL | 1 |
| CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE | 1 |
| ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE .. | 2 |
| WATER POLICY COMMITTEE | 3 |
| REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | 3 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL | 4 |
| EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE .. | 4 |
| ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE | 5 |
| RTIC/LFC JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE | 5 |
| THE BACK PAGE | 6 |
| EDUCATION FOR (REAL) LIFE | 6 |
| INTERIM CALENDAR | 9 |

COMPUTER SYSTEM PLANNING COUNCIL

Computer planning council adopts preliminary plan... The Computer System Planning Council met on Aug. 18 to adopt a proposed Legislative Branch Computer System Plan for the 2011 biennium. The preliminary plan, including a proposed budget, will be presented to the Legislative Council on Sept. 16. The document includes a discussion of information technology (IT) planning in the legislative branch, the existing IT environment, short-term IT goals and objectives, and long-term technology concerns for the branch. In 2007, the Legislature approved the creation of an IT architect and engineer and security officer position for the branch. The person hired for this position has developed the Legislative Branch Enterprise Architecture, the Business Case Analysis Process, and the Security Policy Charter Document, all of which have been added as appendices to the plan. The draft plan is available on the meeting materials page of the Computer System Planning Council's website at www.leg.mt.gov/computer. For more information contact Susan Byorth Fox or Hank Trenk at (406) 444-3064 or sfox@mt.gov or htrenk@mt.gov.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

September meeting... The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet Sept. 16. Materials for the meeting will be available on the council's website two weeks before the meeting. For more information, contact Susan Byorth Fox at (406) 444-3066 or sfox@mt.gov.

Legislators asked for ideas on new voting system web interface... The installation of the new voting systems for the House and Senate is well underway. Legislative Services Division staff is working on a web-interface component for the voting systems. This component offers new functionality for the public and for legislators who want to use their laptops during floor action or in standing committee meetings. LSD staff is asking legislators for their questions, comments, or ideas on the web interface. Please contact Steve Eller at (406) 444-3590 or seller@mt.gov.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Look for a committee update in October... The committee met Aug. 21-22 to complete work on the SJR 5 study of emergency medical services and the SJR 15 study of the health care delivery system. Coverage of the committee meeting will appear in the October issue of the interim newsletter.

Coming up... The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet Oct. 14 to complete work on the study of the state's publicly funded mental health system. The study is being conducted by the Massachusetts-based consulting firm of DMA Health Strategies.

Stay tuned.... Actions taken at the August meeting will be detailed on the committee's website, www.leg.mt.us/cfhhs, along with information about the October meeting.

THE INTERIM

Montana Legislative Services Division
Room 110, State Capitol
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
Phone: (406) 444-3064
Fax: (406) 444-3036

THE INTERIM is a monthly newsletter that reports on the interim activities of legislative committees, including the Legislative Council, the Environmental Quality Council, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Legislative Audit Committee, and interim legislative committees and subcommittees staffed by the Legislative Services Division. Information about the committees, including meeting schedules, agendas, and reports, is found at <http://www.leg.mt.gov>. Follow the "Committees" link or the "Interims" link to the relevant committee. The newsletter is posted on the legislative branch website on the first of each month (follow the "Publications" link).

A Publication of  **Legislative Services Division**

Please contact Sue O'Connell at (406) 444-3597 or soconnell@mt.gov for more information about committee activities.

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

At a Sept. 4 meeting in Helena, the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee will finish up its interim assignments and host a petroleum production and pricing panel.

EPA proposed rules limit committee's ability to act...The committee met July 16 and opted not to pursue carbon sequestration legislation this interim, but instead to offer a study resolution and report on the topic. Throughout the interim, the ETIC has tracked activity related to carbon sequestration at the federal level. The Environmental Protection Agency in October 2007 announced plans to develop rules to ensure that geological carbon sequestration wells are constructed and managed in a way that protects underground sources of drinking water. On July 15, 2008, the EPA released its draft rule. The agency is seeking public comment on the rule, and it is not expected to be final until late 2010 or 2011.

Underground fluid injection is currently regulated through EPA's Underground Injection and Control (UIC) program. The program is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act established to protect underground water resources from contamination. Based on that system, there are five classes of wells for waste injection. Pilot sequestration projects are currently regulated under Class V.

A few highlights of the EPA's proposed rule are discussed below:

The proposed rule establishes a new class of injection well--Class VI--and the technical criteria for geological site characterization, well construction and operation, mechanical integrity and monitoring of wells, well plugging, post-injection site care, and site closure requirements.

The rules are proposed as the necessary steps for protecting underground drinking water, and, in many instances would prevent migration of CO₂ to the surface. The Safe Drinking Water Act does not provide authority to develop all areas of regulation related to sequestration. The proposed rule does not determine property rights, discuss capture and transport of carbon dioxide, transfer liability from one entity to another, or discuss accounting for greenhouse gas reductions.

Under existing rules, the EPA regulates both pollutants and commodities under the UIC program. The proposed rule does not address the status of carbon dioxide as a pollutant or commodity. The proposal, however, includes significant statements on the subject:

- The proposal recognizes that in most cases CO₂ that is captured will contain some impurities. Those

levels are expected to be low. However, the report notes that "EPA cannot make a categorical determination as to whether injected CO₂ is hazardous under RCRA [the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act]". Under the proposal, owners and operators will have to characterize their CO₂ stream as part of the permit applications to determine whether it is considered hazardous. If it is considered hazardous, the more stringent Class I well requirements will apply.

- The proposed rule also deals with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, better known as Superfund. The proposal recognizes that CO₂ is not a hazardous substance under CERCLA, but notes that a CO₂ stream from a power plant could contain mercury or other hazardous substances. "Whether or not there is a 'hazardous substance' that may result in CERCLA liability from a sequestration facility depends entirely on the make-up of the specific CO₂ stream and of the environmental media in which it is stored. . . . As applicable, a determination of liability would be made on a case-by-case basis in Federal courts in response to claims . . ."

The proposal discusses, to some degree, long-term liability for geologic sequestration operations:

- The EPA is proposing using a combination of a fixed timeframe and a performance standard for post-injection. The tentative proposal for post-injection monitoring is 50 years, but allowing a program director some latitude in that area.
- The proposal requires that owners and operators demonstrate and maintain financial responsibility and have the resources for activities related to closing and remediating a site. The proposal does not discuss transfer of financial responsibility to other entities or creation of a third party financial mechanism, where the EPA or another entity would be the trustee.
- "Trust responsibility for potential impacts to USDWs remains with the owner or operator indefinitely under current SDWA provisions." Because responsibility for long-term care is important to sequestration, the EPA is compiling additional information in this area.

The proposal is clear that states that want to retain primacy over these new Class VI wells will need to promulgate regulations that are at least as stringent as those finalized by the EPA. However, this appears to be most directed at states that have primacy over all well classes (I-V). Montana has primacy only over Class II wells, and on the subject of parceling out primacy over just the new Class VI wells, the report states, "There may be benefits to parsing out primacy

for Class VI wells, however, EPA has not made a decision on this."

The requirements in the proposal would not specifically apply to Class II injection wells or Class V experimental wells. Injection of CO₂ for enhanced oil and gas recovery, for example, as long as production is occurring, would be permitted under Class II.

Without the final rule and with questions remaining about the role of the federal government, the ETIC was limited in its ability to effectively deal with regulatory issues raised by carbon sequestration.

Committee reports available, panel discussion...The ETIC reports including:"Carbon Sequestration Study: An analysis of geological and terrestrial carbon sequestration regulatory and policy issues" and "Perspectives on Public Power: A review of the public power model, its history, and its potential in Montana" are available on the committee's website. The reports have been revised based on public comment and the committee's direction in July. The draft final reports and the carbon sequestration study resolution will come before the committee in September.

The petroleum panel will include a discussion about production, pricing and taxation, and economic impacts.

Meeting materials, including a draft agenda, are available on the ETIC website at www.leg.mt.gov/etic. For more information contact Sonja Nowakowski, committee staff, at (406) 444-3078.

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

Committee to finish work in September...The Water Policy Interim Committee meets for the last time Sept. 11 and 12 in Room 152 of the state Capitol in Helena.

At its August meeting, the WPIC reviewed about 20 comments on a draft report and legislation as well as a study by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

The committee is still working on draft recommendations, including:

- providing funding for a statewide hydrogeologic study that would establish baseline data to be used in making water use decisions;
- changing the process for issuing new water permits to make it faster and easier to understand;
- creating a loan program that would fund public water and sewer systems as an alternative to individual wells and septic systems in subdivisions;
- protecting senior water right holders with the timely enforcement of illegal water use and the resolution of water disputes; and

- clarifying that local governments may require public water and sewer systems in subdivisions.

The 2007 Legislature created the committee and charged it with studying a wide range of water topics in order to guide Montana's water policy toward ensuring fair and reasonable use of Montana's water resources as demands on water increase while supplies remain the same or decrease.

Final versions of the report and any legislation will be debated in September.

An agenda, the report, and all information reviewed by the committee is available online at www.leg.mt.gov/water. For more information, contact Joe Kolman, committee staff, at jkolman@mt.gov.

REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

House Bill 488 subcommittee to meet Sept. 9...The 2007 Legislature assigned to the Revenue and Transportation Committee the task of developing mitigation strategies to deal with the effects of the periodic reappraisal of commercial and residential property, agricultural land, and forest land. The new property values are scheduled to go on the tax rolls in 2009. The committee created a subcommittee to conduct the study. The House Bill 488 subcommittee will meet at 1:30 p.m., Sept. 9 in Room 137 of the state Capitol. Items on the agenda include discussions on shortening the reappraisal cycle, extending the current cycle by two years, and delaying the implementation of new values by a year. The subcommittee will also test some mitigation strategies using a Department of Revenue simulation model.

The subcommittee has been delayed in reaching any specific recommendations because new reappraisal values will not be available from the department until later this fall. The subcommittee will meet again in November.

Full committee to consider modifying link to federal income tax law, other topics...The full committee is meeting at 8 a.m., Sept. 10 in Room 137 of the Capitol. The committee will decide whether to proceed with a bill draft that links Montana income and corporation tax laws with the Internal Revenue Code in effect before January 1, 2009. The bill would also incorporate federal changes to the IRC for tax years 2009 and 2010. The bill would not affect Montana's present-law deviations from federal income tax laws. The committee will also act on a bill draft to recodify Montana's individual income tax law. This bill draft doesn't contain any policy changes, but merely reorganizes existing provisions. These two bill drafts are the result of the committee's HJR 61 study of how Montana conforms with federal individual and corporation income tax law.

Among other reports, Jim Lynch will discuss the Montana Department of Transportation's asset management system and the status of the road between Dutton and Lewistown. Other agenda items include:

- a 2008 fiscal year-end general fund status report;
- a review of the SJR 31 subcommittee's draft final report on the study of taxation and school funding;
- a bill draft clarifying the nontaxable amount of gross value of product under the metal mines tax;
- a bill draft standardizing certain provisions of tax increment financing district laws; and
- Department of Revenue reports.

Want to be in the loop?...The agendas and other material for the September meetings will be posted on the committee's website at www.leg.mt.gov/rtic. For more information about the committee, contact Jeff Martin, committee staff, at (406) 444-3595 or jmartin@mt.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

The Environmental Quality Council is expected to conclude its work in September; putting the final touches on a study of climate change, an examination of conservation easements on state trust lands, and a report on the insolvency of Petroleum Tank Release Fund.

Climate change study refined...The EQC will review public comment received on a draft climate change report and a dozen pieces of related, draft legislation. After reviewing the information, the council will consider revisions to the report and draft legislation. It will also decide whether to pursue the draft bills and take them before the 2009 Legislature.

EQC members have narrowed their study and focused on topics including enhancing recycling opportunities; promoting local food and fiber; improving transportation system management, or efforts to enhance mass transit and ensure adequate transportation planning; providing additional opportunities for low income and rental housing energy efficiency and weatherization; expanding biomass opportunities; and reviewing requirements that new state buildings exceed existing building codes or standards.

The draft report, including draft legislation, was available for public comment from July 22 through Aug. 22. The 10 comments received varied from raising concerns about the cause of climate change to applauding the EQC for taking on the study. Additional public comment will be accepted during the Sept. 8-9 meeting.

The full report: "Climate Change: An analysis of climate change policy issues in Montana" and the 12 pieces of related draft legislation are available online at: www.leg.mt.gov/eqc.

Conservation easement study...In general, the study found that the Land Board has several legal options when it comes to state trust land and conservation tools. The draft

report does not suggest any legislation, but does include a proposed brochure that explains the basic elements of conservation easements.

Water Policy Future...The Water Policy Interim Committee, created by the 2007 Legislature as a one-interim committee, has fulfilled its duties, but members have said that water policy should be studied more in the coming years. The EQC has also worked on water policy, including its statutory oversight of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Department of Environmental Quality. A subcommittee of the EQC and the Water Policy Committee met in August and will meet again in September to review the water-related responsibilities delegated to the EQC and how those might be handled by a separate committee or a subcommittee of the EQC.

Petro-fund plans...The Petroleum Tank Release Fund subcommittee (a joint panel of the EQC and the Legislative Finance Committee formed to study the insolvency of the fund) has submitted its findings to the EQC. They're available for public review by going to the EQC website at www.leg.mt.gov/eqc and clicking on the Petroleum Tank Release Fund link under "Subcommittees." The subcommittee has not made any legislative recommendations, saying such proposals are beyond its current directive. The EQC will review the report during its September meeting.

Agency bill drafts up for review...The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department Fish Wildlife and Parks will present summaries of agency bill drafts to the EQC to review and request for drafting purposes. The agency bill draft summaries are available for public review on the EQC website.

The closing circle...The meeting is Sept. 8-9 in Helena. For more information, contact Todd Everts at teverts@mt.gov or (406) 444-3747; Joe Kolman at jkolman@mt.gov or (406) 444-9280; Sonja Nowakowski at snowakowski@mt.gov or (406) 444-3078; or Hope Stockwell at (406) 444-1640 or hstockwell@mt.gov. The EQC website is www.leg.mt.gov/eqc.

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

HB 49 subcommittee to make final decision on bill draft...The House Bill 49 subcommittee will decide in September whether to give final approval to a bill draft that would establish uniform standards for the creation and operation of special districts by local governments. Park, cemetery, county fair, and mosquito control districts, among others, would fall under the proposed "uniform act." The subcommittee removed water, sewer, library, and urban transportation districts from the bill draft at a July 29 meeting.

The subcommittee meets Sept. 4 from 1-5 p.m. in Room 350 at the Capitol.

More information about the subcommittee's work and a copy of the bill draft can be found by going to the Education and Local Government Committee's website at www.leg.mt.gov/elgic and clicking on the HB 49 - Special Purpose Districts link under "Subcommittees". Please send questions or comments to Hope Stockwell, subcommittee staff, at hstockwell@mt.gov or call (406) 444-1640.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The end is in sight...The Economic Affairs Interim Committee will meet Sept. 12 in Room 102 of the Capitol for its final meeting of the interim. The agenda will primarily consist of reviewing state agency legislation for the following agencies for which the EAIC has monitoring responsibilities: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor and Industry, and Livestock, plus the Office of the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner, and the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. Montana State Fund also has been invited to present any agency legislation to the EAIC, which has an ongoing agreement with the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee to handle that agency's workers' compensation oversight.

The EAIC voted at its July meeting to have staff reports submitted at the September meeting. These include reports on Montana's business infrastructure as it relates to economic development; academic research and commercialization activity in Montana; health care financing reforms; and the expansion of value-added agricultural production in the state.

Also on the agenda are presentations by EAIC members who serve as liaisons with the Rail Services Competition Council or the Montana State Fund. A representative of the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission will review its statutory

requirements. The final agenda item will be a presentation by the committee's staff attorney on statutes and policy options regarding residential contractors.

Moving on...Andrew Geiger, who has been lead staff for the EAIC, has left the legislative branch. Pat Murdo will be taking over the staff role for the final meeting. For an agenda, visit the committee's website or contact Murdo at (406) 444-3064.

RTIC\LFC JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee reviews preliminary study bill draft...A legislative subcommittee, consisting of members from the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee, has been working on a proposal to study, among other things, changing demographics in Montana. A catalyst for the proposal is concern over the "graying of Montana" where Montana's population is expected to grow older in a relatively short period of time. The subcommittee reviewed an initial bill draft during a teleconference meeting held Aug. 18. The bill draft proposes a study of the potential long-term effects of demographic, economic, social, and other trends on state and local governmental programs and services and on state and local revenue systems.

The subcommittee made some changes to the draft, and will review a revised version Sept. 9. For more information about the study contact Jeff Martin at (406) 444-3595 or jmartin@mt.gov, or Clayton Schenck at (406) 444-2986 or cschenck@mt.gov.

THE BACK PAGE

EDUCATION FOR (REAL) LIFE

By Casey Barrs, Legislative Research Analyst
Montana Legislative Services Division

REACHING FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Imagine a journey of lifelong learning in which the functions and phases of education were clearly mapped out. Imagine a path along which expectations, supports, and standards were thoughtfully placed to guide us from early childhood through elementary, middle, and high school grades, on up to postsecondary education—and on to economic and civic life.

This “connection strategy” is gaining increasing attention across the country, primarily through changes in state policies. Why? Because the picture of “public education in most U. S. communities looks more like a puzzle with some pieces missing and others that don’t quite fit than an orderly progression of expectations, opportunities, and supports and services aligned to ensure” that education serves its myriad purpose in our lives.¹ Much of this article will be about “process”. But caught up in the process are people whose pursuit of happiness is very much at stake. Whenever there are broken connections in the process, there are young people who have dropped out of high school, or who have decided not to pursue college; graduates who do not qualify for better than minimum wage jobs, or adults do not even dream of returning to education so as to change the path of their lives.

If educational opportunities are not synchronized with life’s demands, or worse, if educational policymakers are not in sync with each other, then our economy, our society, and most particularly our citizens suffer. Of course, the idea of collaboration is not new. The importance of plugging the gaps and connecting the dots is not a surprise to educational policymakers in Montana. As the Board of Public Education’s Executive Secretary Steve Meloy notes, for several years now the BPE and others “have been trying to get away from piecemeal solutions to more comprehensive and collective ones.”

One key forum for partnership has been the BPE’s Kindergarten to College Workgroup. The workgroup has 15 members representing a range of expertise in education, commerce, labor and industry, and health and human services. Its current “Kindergarten to College Priority Areas”²

illustrate the kind of edge issues that cannot be tackled without shared leadership and integrated policy remedies:

- Education data system: Purpose to implement a single system for educational data that links all education data systems from pre-kindergarten through higher education.
- Dual enrollment: Purpose to adopt an overarching dual enrollment policy statewide, establishing methods for developing, implementing and monitoring dual enrollment in Montana’s postsecondary institutions.
- College Readiness: Purpose to conduct a Campaign to Inform High School Students and Parents about College Readiness.

The goal of the campaign is to educate students and parents about the importance of college preparatory classes. Information will include a sample timeline of when to take courses, scholarship opportunities available, and the importance of the senior year.

THAT’S FINE, BUT...

Members of the workgroup would probably be the first to say that although these initiatives are exciting, we still have quite a long way to go before the functions and phases of education in Montana are truly joined up. The most frustrating concern is what happens to high school graduates. Only one in two Montana high school graduates goes on to college. Those who go straight into the workforce frequently require remedial or on-the-job training. Those who go to college frequently (35 % of the time) require remedial classes, and only about one in five students obtain a degree in 4 years.³

While education decisionmakers in the state’s executive and legislative branches grapple with those problems, other worrisome trends crowd the horizon. It is projected that by the year 2017, the number of high school graduates in Montana will decline by nearly 20%. And the number of traditional college students aged 18 to 24 will decline by 19%. These demographic shifts will have enormous implications for Montana’s workforce. Among other things it means this: the state must maximize the lifelong educational experience of every Montanan.

Many of education’s challenges are edge issues that require us to view the functions and phases of education in an even more integrated way and to approach collaboration among varied education players in an even more systematic way. Experience around the country suggests that a seamless approach to education results in more “P–20” collaboration,

to College Workgroup meeting minutes, January 31, 2008.

¹ *Preparing Young People to Succeed in College and Beyond: The Connection Strategy*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD, 2007; pp. 3 and 4.

² (1) Sept 13 2007 letter from Workgroup chair to BPE members; (2) BPE Executive Secretary Steve Meloy at Sept 12, 2007 joint meeting of BPE and the Montana Advisory Committee in Indian Education, and (3) Kindergarten

³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Montana’s Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

more affordable and accessible higher education opportunities, more high school graduates going on to college, more effective use of two-year colleges, more working adults completing GEDs and getting advanced degrees, and more curriculum responsiveness to workforce realities and needs. One catchphrase for this seamless approach is “shared policy goals”.

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A group of legislators, legislative staff, and representatives of the education community have been developing a shared policy goal process. The goals they have set so far reflect both the connectedness of policies and the importance of collaboration between institutions (including the Legislature). This process links challenges, shares leadership, and ties goals back to measurements. Moreover, the group is setting goals in a contractual (albeit in a nonbinding) manner, with each entity signing off on an agreement to pursue certain goals, actions, and measurements.

With the helpful facilitation of the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee, leaders from the Legislature, the executive branch, and the Montana Board of Regents and Montana university system have established the following *Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures for the Montana University System*. These goals may provide a template for similar efforts (some are already underway piecemeal) for K-12 education—and ultimately for the statewide P-20 spectrum of education.

Shared Goal I:

Increase the overall educational attainment of Montanans through increased participation, retention and completion rates in the Montana University System

1. Prepare students for success in life through quality higher education, as measured by:
 - a. Postsecondary education participation rates, with particular attention to Montana residents attending MUS institutions
 - b. Completion rates
 - c. Retention rates
2. Make higher education more affordable by offering more need-based financial aid grants and scholarships, as measured by:
 - a. Reducing the amount of unmet student need for financial aid as measured by:
 - i. $\text{Cost of attendance} = \text{EFC}^* + \text{average aid award to eligible students}$ (EFC = expected family contribution))
 - b. Percentage of students who receive financial aid or scholarships
 - c. Average total aid/scholarship award amount
 - i. Average state funded aid/scholarship award amount
3. Promote postsecondary education affordability, as

measured by:

- a. Amount of state support as a percent of total personal income relative to peer states and historical levels
 - b. Tuition as a percentage of median household income.
4. Work collaboratively with the K-12 education system to increase high school academic preparedness, completion, and concurrent enrollment programs, as measured by:
 - a. Increased dual enrollment and advanced placement programs, including:
 - i. Increased number of high school students enrolling in dual credit courses accepted for both high school and college level credit
 - ii. Increased number of dual enrollment course sections offered
 - b. Expanded outreach to students as to the importance and accessibility of postsecondary education and the quality of the Montana University System, including:
 - i. Expanded outreach to at-risk and disadvantaged students
 - ii. Expanded outreach to top academic achievers graduating from Montana high schools
 - c. Increased high school graduation rates
 - d. Decreased percentage of recent Montana high school students requiring remedial/developmental coursework in the university system, as measured by:
 - i. A joint report from the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education that addresses the status of joint efforts to align K-12 academic standards with higher education enrollment standards, leading to a shared policy goal and accountability measures between these educational institutions
 5. Increase postsecondary enrollment of traditional and non-traditional students through expanded outreach programs, evening/weekend programs, and 2-year programs
 6. Improve distance and online learning by coordinating online delivery of education across the entire Montana University System in order to facilitate:
 - a. Increased student enrollment growth in online courses
 - b. Increased number of online courses and degree programs offered
 - c. Increased number of workforce development degree programs and

certificates offered

Shared Goal II:

Assist in the expansion and improvement of the state's economy through the development of high-value jobs and the diversification of the economic base

1. Increase responsiveness to workforce development needs by expanding and developing programs in high demand fields in the state, as measured by:
 - a. Employer satisfaction with graduates
 - b. Degrees and certificates awarded in high-demand occupational fields
 - c. Job placement rates
 - d. Growth in enrollment, for certificates and degrees, in 2-year programs
2. Establish collaborative programs among institutions, the private sector, and the state to expand research, technology transfer, the commercialization of new technologies, and the development of our entrepreneurs, as measured by:
 - a. Research & development receipts and expenditures
 - b. Technology licenses with Montana businesses
- (2) Common course numbering will result in a transparent computerized program that demonstrates transferable courses across the university system
- b. Expenditures per student relative to peer institutions and historical levels
- c. Percentage of expenditures in the following areas:
 - i. Instruction
 - ii. Research
 - iii. Public service
 - iv. Academic support
 - v. Student services
 - vi. Institutional support
 - vii. Plant O&M
 - viii. Scholarship and fellowships
 - ix. Other
3. Reconstruct the budget allocation model consistent with state and system policy goals and objectives

Shared Goal III:

Improve institutional and system efficiency and effectiveness

1. Improve the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of system data, including the continued development of a comprehensive data warehouse
2. Deliver efficient and coordinated services, as measured by:
 - a. Improve articulation and transferability among all 2-year and 4- year institutions, including community colleges and tribal colleges, as measured by:
 - i. All undergraduate courses in the Montana University System will go through the process of common course numbering
 - (1) All courses deemed to be significantly similar must possess the same prefix,

THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND BEYOND

The shared policy goals approach is one of the key topics that will be covered at the Learning for Life: Pre-school through Continuing Education workshop, to be held at the beginning of the 2009 legislative session. This January 10 event is being sponsored by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG), and will be open to all legislators and decisionmakers in the education community. Its purpose is to provide a foundation and fresh perspectives in order to deal with education issues during the session and beyond.

Looking beyond the next legislative session, the ELG may be significantly reconfigured so as to be better able to examine education issues in the comprehensive way that this article has described. Education matters might be separated from local government topics. This possibility will be discussed at the next ELG meeting on September 4-5.



INTERIM CALENDAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL ROOM DESIGNATIONS ARE IN THE CAPITOL

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| September 2008 | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Energy and Telecommunications Committee, Rm 172 Education and Local Government Committee, Rm 137 HB 49 subcommittee, Rm. 350, 1 p.m. | 5 Education and Local Government Committee, Room 137 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Environmental Quality Council, Room 102 | 9 Environmental Quality Council RTIC\LFC joint subcommittee RTIC HB 488 subcommittee, Rm. 137, 1:30 p.m. | 10 Revenue and Transportation Committee, Room 137, 8 a.m. | 11 Water Policy Committee, Room 152 Fire Suppression Committee, Room 137 | 12 Water Policy Committee, Room 152 Fire Suppression Committee, Rm. 137 Economic Affairs Committee, Rm 102 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee, Room 102 Law and Justice Committee, Room 137 | 16 Legislative Council, Room 102 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| October 2008 | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Legislative Finance Committee, Room 102, 8 a.m. | 10 Legislative Finance Committee, Room 102, 8 a.m. | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PO BOX 201706
HELENA MT 59620-1706